

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 MMO-01 INR-07
OMB-01 NSC-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 H-01 /044 W
-----180802Z 126970 /14

R 180311Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1263
INFO CINCPAC
DOD
JCS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 9375

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, RP
SUBJECT: REQUIREMENT FOR CONTINUED OPERATION OF JUSMAG PHILIPPINES

REF: A) STATE 135258, B) MAG 170735Z JUNE 77

1. EMBASSY POSITION REMAINS AS STATED MANILA 0471,
JANUARY 9, 1976; RESTATED MANILA 3128, MARCH 2, 1977;
AND MOST RECENTLY CONFIRMED MANILA 4601, MARCH 29, 1977.
RELEVANT PORTIONS ARE EXCERPTED BELOW:

A. MANILA 0471: "JUSMAG NOW EMPLOYS 53 AMERICANS AND
SIX LOCALS ON THE U.S. PAYROLL. THE ACTIVITIES OF JUSMAG
RESPECTING SECURITY ASSISTANCE, ADMINISTRATION OF FMS
PURCHASES, SUPERVISION OF GRANT AID UTILIZATION, TRAINING
PROGRAMS AND IN-COUNTRY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ARE, OF COURSE,
PREDICATED IN FUTURE ON CONTINUING THE PRESENT PROGRAM
LARGELY AS IS. IF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES MOVE
MORE COMPLETELY TOWARD SELF-RELIANCE IN PRODUCTION/PROCUREMENT,
AS THE GOP HAS ANNOUNCED, OR IF THE PHILIPPINES ENTERS
MORE SERIOUSLY INTO REGIONAL DEFENSE HARDWARE PRODUCTION
SCHEMES, AS IS NOW BEING CONSIDERED, THE CHARACTER OF
JUSMAG, THE SCOPE OF ITS FUNCTIONS, AND THE SIZE OF ITS
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STAFFING WILL BE AFFECTED. RECOMMENDATION: PENDING THE FINAL
JUDGMENT ABOUT THE FUTURE SHAPE OF OUR MILITARY ADVISORY
ROLE HERE, I (AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN) BELIEVE WE SHOULD LOOK
TO A MIX OF REDUCTIONS, RESTRUCTURING AND GREATER USE OF ARMED
FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES PERSONNEL OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS.
IF WE CONTINUE WITH THE SAME BASIC MISSION FOR JUSMAG, WE
CAN STILL EFFECT REDUCTIONS BY DEPARTING FROM THE PRESENT

SERVICE-ORIENTED PATTERN AND ADOPTING A FUNCTIONAL ONE. TO ILLUSTRATE, JUSMAG NOW DISCHARGES LOGISTICS, PLANNING AND TRAINING FUNCTIONS SEPARATELY FOR EACH OF THE SERVICES OF THE AFP. THIS CLEARLY MERITS CONSOLIDATION AND WOULD PERMIT SAVINGS OF AS MANY AS FIVE POSITIONS. BY ENHANCING A JUSMAG POLICY OF USING TDY RATHER THAN ASSIGNED PERSONNEL, E.G., ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, FURTHER STAFF CUTS SHOULD BE POSSIBLE, PARTICULARLY IF THE JUSMAG ROLE MOVES MORE HEAVILY INTO SUPPORT OF SELF-RELIANCE AND OF REGIONAL DEFENSE PRODUCTION."

B. MANILA 3128: "MILITARY ASSISTANCE. AT PRESENT THE MAP PROGRAM IS A TRANSITIONAL BRIDGE BETWEEN GRANT AID AND THE "SELF RELIANT" MODE DOMINATED BY SALES. DEPENDING ON CIRCUMSTANCES, WHICH MAY BE DICTATED BY THE BASES AGREEMENT, WE SHOULD PHASE OUT THE JUSMAG PROGRAM COMPLETELY. THERE ARE NO COMPELLING SECURITY REASONS, INCLUDING THE MAINTENANCE OF THE BASES, WHY WE SHOULD SEEK THROUGH MAP TO BUILD THE STRENGTH OF THE AFP. AN ARSENAL OF SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS WOULD ONLY DIVERT RESOURCES FROM PHILIPPINE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND COULD ENCOURAGE GOP ADVENTURISM IN THE DISPUTED PARACEL ISLANDS, MACCLESFIELD BANK, AND ISLANDS IN THE DANGEROUS GROUND AREA, INCLUDING THE SPRATLY ISLANDS. IN THIS CONTEXT EVEN U.S. MILITARY SALES MAY BE HARMFUL TO OUR OWN LONG-RANGE INTERESTS.

ANY WINDING DOWN OF THE MINDANAO INSURGENCY WOULD FURTHER REDUCE THE JUSTIFICATION FOR MILITARY AID. OUR TRAINING ASSISTANCE TO THE AFP PRESENTLY AMOUNTS TO ABOUT \$600,000 YEARLY, MUCH OF IT IN RIGIDLY TECHNICAL MILITARY SUBJECTS." CONFIDENTIAL

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C. MANILA 4601: "JUSMAG. AS STATED IN REF A (MANILA 3128), WE BELIEVE THE JUSMAG PROGRAM SHOULD BE PHASED OUT COMPLETELY, DEPENDING UPON CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH MAY BE DICTATED BY THE NEGOTIATION OF A MILITARY BASES AGREEMENT."

2. THE FOLLOWING IS IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS RAISED IN REF A:

JUSMAG'S PRINCIPAL FUNCTIONS ARE FISCAL AND LOGISTICS MANAGEMENT. IT HAS NO ADVISORY OR TRAINING FUNCTION. JUSMAG MANAGES AND MONITORS EQUIPMENT DELIVERY PROGRAMS, ASSISTS IN THE INTEGRATION OF EQUIPMENT INTO THE AFP, SERVES AS CONDUIT FOR INFORMATION ON FMS ACTIONS TO INCLUDE PAYMENTS AND FOLLOW UP, FULFILLS STATUTORY AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS, ADMINISTERS IMET PROGRAM, AND ASSISTS IN THE SCHEDULING AND ADMINISTERING OF CONTRACT MOBILE TRAINING TEAMS OR MAINTENANCE ASSISTANCE TEAMS. AS TO AREAS FOR POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION FOR REDUCTION SEE PARA 1, A. ABOVE.

B. A MAG OF 6 MILITARY PERSONNEL WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO MANAGE CURRENT AND PROJECTED PROGRAMS, LET ALONE ANY POSSIBLY LARGER PROGRAMS WHICH MIGHT EMERGE FROM ANY NEW BASES AGREEMENT.

C. JUSMAG ESTIMATES THAT MAN-MONTHS CURRENTLY DEVOTED TO LEGAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND MONITORING OF USE OF U.S.-ORIGIN EQUIPMENT IS 103.5 MAN-MONTHS PER YEAR, CONSISTING OF 91.5 MAN-MONTHS FOR EQUIPMENT AND 12 MAN-MONTHS FOR IMET. THIS METHODOLOGY DOES NOT CONSIDER OTHER TASKS SUCH AS PLANNING, PROGRAMMING, FMS FOLLOW-UP, ASSISTING IN MOBILE TRAINING TEAMS, AND DISSUADING PURCHASE OF SOPHISTICATED HARDWARE AND AIRCRAFT.

D. SEE PARA 1 ABOVE FOR RECOMMENDATIONS.

E. IN PRINCIPLE WE WOULD PREFER TO AVOID SHARP AS OPPOSED TO PHASED ADJUSTMENTS.

3. WE ARE UNAWARE OF THE ORIGIN OF THE REMARKS ASCRIBED
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TO COUNTRY TEAM MEMBERS AS REPORTED PARA 1 REF A. FOR JUSMAG'S CURRENT VIEWS SEE REF. B.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, MILITARY PLANS, REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MANILA09375
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770218-0618
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770642/aaaablaq.tel
Line Count: 142
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 135258
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2104599
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUIREMENT FOR CONTINUED OPERATION OF JUSMAG PHILIPPINES
TAGS: MASS, RP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/746d827a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009